

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction between Group I, claims 1-30 drawn to a treatment apparatus and Group II, claims 31-39 drawn to a method for decomposing excrement.

Initially, Applicant notes that the application as filed lacked claim 11. Accordingly, claims 12-39 have been renumbered as claims 11-38. To formally respond to the restriction, Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-30 with traverse. The traverse is based on the above-listed amendments to the claims of Group II. Among other things, claim 31 (now claim 30) has been amended to more clearly recite the structure of claim 1, and the timer element which appears to be a major basis for the restriction has been eliminated. Accordingly, the restriction requirement is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that in view of the above-identified amendments and remarks, the claims in their present form are patentably distinct over the art of record. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover

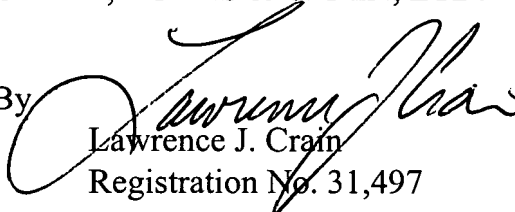
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Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2007

there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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